

That State law and the recent decision in *The Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania, Inc. v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Insurance Department*, removes managed care barriers to addiction treatment. What effect will S. 558 have on that State law, or on State efforts to enforce that law or to find remedies for violations of that law?

Mr. KENNEDY This bill would have no effect upon that law.

Mr. CASEY Would any State laws be preempted?

Mr. DOMENICI Yes, State law requirements that would prevent the application of a requirement of S. 558 by, for example, endorsing a less consumer-friendly level of coverage or benefits. For example, a State law that prohibited an insurance company from selling policies providing for full parity in coverage for mental health services and medical/surgical services would be preempted.

Mr. CASEY Would the current legislation, S. 558, have any effect on any provisions of Pennsylvania Act 106, or on any State efforts to enforce provisions of that law or to find remedies for violations of any provisions of that law?

Mr. KENNEDY It would have no effect. Pennsylvania's Act 106 is an example of the kind of consumer protection law that is not preempted by the federal floor created in S. 558.

Mr. SPECTER I appreciate this discussion with my colleague from Pennsylvania, Chairman KENNEDY and Senator DOMENICI. I thank Chairman KENNEDY, Ranking Member ENZI, Senator DOMENICI and others on the HELP Committee who have worked so hard to establish these critical benefits for citizens across our great country. And I thank them for this discussion to clarify our support for S. 558.

Mr. CASEY I also want to express my deepest thanks to HELP Committee Chairman KENNEDY, Senator DOMENICI, HELP Committee Ranking Member Enzi, and all members and staff who have worked so hard to make this long time dream a reality. I greatly appreciate this discussion and our establishment of intent regarding S. 558.

AMERICA COMPETES ACT

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, America's strength has always been in the innovation, technical skill, and education of its workforce. The economic growth and well-being of the nation relies on the technical innovations achieved by our workforce. To realize growth and success, the United States must continue to support the two critical components vital to the innovation process: education and basic research. Today, Congress takes a significant step toward this commitment.

The National Academy of Sciences and the Council on Competitiveness have identified science and innovation as key drivers of economic growth. The United States has seen a sharp palpable decline in its scientific prowess. The

United States is losing the educational battle with Germany, China, and Japan. In the United States, only 32 percent of graduates hold a degree in science and engineering, while Germany boasts 36 percent of graduates with degrees in science and engineering. Outpacing both the United States and Germany is China, with 59 percent of graduates with degrees in math and science, and Japan with 66 percent.

The America COMPETES Act embodies bipartisan, bicameral multi-committee efforts in responding to the Nation's defining economic challenge of how to remain strong and competitive in the face of emerging challenges from India, China, and the rest of the world.

The America COMPETES Act addresses programs within several scientific agencies of which the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation has jurisdiction. Within the Department of Commerce, the National Institutes of Standards and Technology, NIST, promotes U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology. The legislation before us would double the agency's funding over the next 10 years. We also create a new program, the Technology Innovation Program, which will support high-risk, high-reward research. This was one of the major recommendations of the National Academies report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm."

Also within the Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, conducts significant basic atmospheric and oceanographic research, including climate change research. Some have argued that the ocean truly is the last frontier on Earth, and ocean research and technology may have broad impacts on improving health and understanding our environment. Toward this end, Congress included provisions on NOAA research and education, as well as, NOAA's continued participation in interagency innovation and competitiveness efforts.

The bill also includes the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, in the competitiveness agenda. Like the oceans, space serves to inspire young students and attract them to studies in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The need for additional research through the National Science Foundation, NSF, also is addressed in this bill with authorization for appropriations through fiscal year 2010. This bill places NSF on track to double in 7 years. While this is not as aggressive an approach as the Senate sought, it is clear that Congress is united in our belief that the NSF is indeed the Nation's premier scientific research enterprise. We need to support this enterprise to the best of our abilities, so that it can enable our scientists to continue their discovery. Within the NSF, I am proud that the conferees supported the cre-

ation of a mentoring program designed to recruit and train science, technology, and engineering professionals to mentor women, and other underrepresented minorities, in these fields. We need to ensure that we do not neglect a segment of the U.S. population, but rather maximize all of this country's great human resources.

A strong national investment in science, education, and technology provides opportunities for Americans to succeed in a whole array of disciplines and professions. Technology and innovation influence many policy problems such as a changing telecommunications landscape, potential improvements to our transportation infrastructure, and the need for advanced technologies to increase our energy independence. The America COMPETES Act directs the Nation on the path to preserve and improve its workforce. This bill demonstrates that Americans are not taking their traditional technological and economic dominance for granted but are continually working to improve and lead.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am pleased that last night the Senate passed the conference report that accompanies H.R. 2272, the America COMPETES Act of 2007. Innovation resulting from Americans' genius and gift for innovation has revolutionized the global economy and workplace as well as all our everyday lives.

Unfortunately, our education system has failed to keep pace; now, many of our Nation's schools are unable to provide their students with the scientific, technological, engineering, and mathematical knowledge and skills the 21st century economy demands. Without well-trained people and the scientific and technical innovations they produce, this Nation risks losing its place as the epicenter for innovative enterprise that has been one of our proudest traditions.

I applaud Senators BINGAMAN and ALEXANDER and the other leading sponsors of the bill for their action to ensure that this Nation remains a technological leader. I was proud to join them as a cosponsor of the bill and was proud to join them to vote for its final passage.

I am grateful to the academic and business leaders, including Nancy Grasmick, the Maryland State superintendent of schools, and Dr. C.D. Mote, Jr., president of the University of Maryland, who produced both the National Academies' "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" and the Council on Competitiveness' "Innovative America" reports and recommendations that serve as the foundation for this critical legislation.

This legislation is critical for it addresses the growing gap in this country between what is taught in elementary and secondary schools and the skills necessary to succeed in college, graduate school, and today's workforce. This gap threatens the implicit promise we have each made to our own children and those whom we represent: get

good grades in school and you will succeed in life.

H.R. 2272 contains provisions that will encourage better alignment of elementary and secondary curricula with the knowledge and skills required by colleges and universities, 21st century employers, and the Armed Forces. There are critical measures that will improve teacher recruitment and training, develop partnerships between schools and laboratories, and encourage internship programs. These provisions will increase students' exposure to inspirational teaching, talented scientists, and real-world experience so that high school graduates students are better prepared to succeed in today's global economy.

But it is not enough to improve science and math education. Those students who choose to pursue high-tech careers require federal funding to conduct research. H.R. 2272 will significantly increase America's investment in research, doubling funding for the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy's Office of Science over the next 4 years and authorizing a significant increase in funding for the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The legislation goes further toward encouraging scientific and technological discovery by targeting more funds to young researchers and high-risk frontier research.

Today, we face enormous challenges from halting global climate change to curing devastating diseases. This legislation takes critical steps to ensure we arm ourselves with the skills and resources to tackle these problems so that our children and grandchildren may inherit a better world rich with economic opportunities

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT WILLIAM R. FRITSCHKE

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of the brave staff sergeant from Martinsville, IN. William Fritsche, 23 years old, died on July 29, 2007 from injuries sustained on July 27 near Kamu, Afghanistan, when his dismounted patrol received rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire. With an optimistic future before him, William risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

William joined the Army at the age of 17 after graduating from Martinsville High School. After being deployed in Africa in 2004 and receiving several commendations, he was promoted to sergeant in April of 2005. He was chosen to serve in the Old Guard at Arlington National Cemetery, which is the oldest active-duty infantry unit. He was also selected in 2005 to be part of President Bush's inaugural procession in Washington, DC. It was during his most recent assignment to the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, based out of Vicenza,

Italy, that he was killed while serving his country in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Today, I join William's family and friends in mourning his death. Although he was extremely proud of serving his country through military service, he prided himself most on his family. He was a devoted husband to Brandi and the loving son of Volitta, a detective in the Morgan County Sheriff's Department.

Martinsville High School administrators, faculty, and students referred to William as having a quiet intensity while being mature, focused, and determined with the ability to succeed at anything he tried. His high school's athletic director spoke highly of the former basketball player saying, "He was one of those players, that if you were a coach, you loved to have on your team because of his work ethic and obviously as an athletic director, he was one of those kids that you love in your program, because he was such a good kid. He just represented you the way you wanted to be represented."

William's final act was one of leadership and bravery. While other soldiers lay dead and wounded, he led a nine man patrol into battle, and according to the Army, his efforts saved other troops. Today and always, William will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of William, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring William's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of William's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of William R. Fritsche in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that William's family can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with William

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, another month has passed, and more American troops lost their lives overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is only right that we take a few moments in the U.S. Senate to honor them. Outside my office here in Washington, we have a tribute called "Faces of the Fallen." Visitors to the Senate from across the country have stopped by the memorial. I encourage my colleagues to come see this tribute on the third floor of the Hart Building.

Since the end of June, the Pentagon has announced the deaths of 88 troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. They will not be forgotten. So today, I will read their names into the RECORD:

SGT Stephen R. Maddies of Elizabethton, TN;

CPL Jason M. Kessler of Mount Vernon, WA;

1LT Benjamin J. Hall, VA;

SPC Camy Floretil of Philadelphia, PA;

CPL Sean A. Stokes of Auburn, CA;

SSG Wilberto Suliveras of Humacao, Puerto Rico;

MAJ Thomas G. Bostick Junior of Llano, TX;

SSG William R. Fritsche of Martinsville, IN;

PFC Cody C. Grater of Spring Hill, FL;

SPC Daniel A. Leckel of Medford, OR;

PVT Michael A. Baloga of Everett, WA;

SGT William R. Howdeshell of Norfolk, VA;

SPC Charles E. Bilbrey Junior of Owego, NY;

SPC Jaime Rodriguez Junior of Oxnard, CA;

PFC Juan S. Restrepo of Pembroke Pines, FL;

SGT Courtney D. Finch of Leavenworth, KS;

SSG Joshua P. Mattero of San Diego, CA;

LCpl Robert A. Lynch of Louisville, KY;

CPL James H. McRae of Springtown, TX;

CPL Matthew R. Zindars of Watertown, WI;

1SG Michael S. Curry Junior of Dania Beach, FL;

SGT Travon T. Johnson of Palmdale, CA;

PFC Adam J. Davis of Twin Falls, ID;

PFC Jessy S. Rogers of Copper Center, AK; Hospitalman Daniel S. Noble of Whittier, CA;

PFC Zachary R. Endsley of Spring, TX;

LCpl Bobby L. Twitty of Bedias, TX;

SGT Shawn G. Adams of Dixon, CA;

CPL Christopher G. Scherer of East Northport, NY;

SGT Jacob S. Schmucker of Atkinson, NE;

SFC Luis E. Gutierrez-Rosales of Bakersfield, CA;

SPC Zachary R. Clouser of Dover, PA;

SPC Richard Gilmore the Third of Jasper, AL;

SPC Daniel E. Gomez of Warner Robbins, GA;

CPL Rhett A. Butler of Fort Worth, TX;

PFC Brandon M. Craig of Earleville, MD;

SGT Ronald L. Coffelt of Fair Oaks, CA;

PFC James J. Harrelson of Dadeville, AL;

PFC Ron J. Joshua Junior of Austin, TX;

PFC Brandon K. Bobb of Orlando, FL;

SGT Nathan S. Barnes of American Fork, UT;

CPO Patrick L. Wade of Key West, FL;

PO1 Class Jeffrey L. Chaney of Omaha, NE;

SPC Eric M. Holke of Crestline, CA;